

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 /079 W  
-----089519 140233Z /23

R 131000Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5224  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PDIP, TW  
SUBJECT: 1977 DOUBLE TEN CELEBRATIONS

1. DOUBLE TEN CELEBRATIONS WERE SHORTER, NOTICEABLY  
SUBDUED AND LESS WELL ORGANIZED THAN LAST YEAR, AND  
IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE MAXIMUM EFFORT MADE IN 1975.  
POSSIBLE EXCEPTION WAS THIS YEAR'S SOMEWHAT MORE LAVISH  
TREATMENT OF OVERSEAS CHINESE GROUPS. PRESIDENT YEN'S  
NATIONAL DAY SPEECH STRUCK A MODERATE TONE, CALLING ON  
THE NATION TO CAST OFF ANY FEELINGS OF DEPENDENCE AND  
TO FOLLOW CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S INSTRUCTIONS TO BUILD THE  
ROC ON A REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE. PRESS  
COVERAGE EMPHASIZED VISITS BY OFFICIAL FOREIGN DELE-  
GATIONS AND OVERSEAS CHINESE. DECORATION, DISPLAYS  
AND PARADES LACKED PREVIOUS YEARS' EMPHASIS ON  
MILITARY PARTICIPATION AND ESPECIALLY HEAVY WEAPONS.

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2. MILITARY DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HIGHLIGHTED BY HAIR-  
RAISING ESCAPE OF ONE PARACHUTIST WHOSE CHUTE BECAME  
ENTANGLED IN HIGH TENSION LINES AND WAS BEING PULLED  
OVER THE WIRES TOWARDS POSSIBLE DEATH UNTIL HE DEPLOYED  
HIS RESERVE CHUTE, THEN ESCAPED PREDICAMENT BY  
CUTTING THE MAIN SHROUDS AND FLOATING SAFELY DOWN  
CLUTCHING HIS RESERVE CHUTE. HE BECAME HERO OF THE DAY.

3. IN THE WEEKS PRECEDING DOUBLE TEN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY WAS EXTRACTED FROM A SERIES OF OFFICIAL VISITS, INCLUDING A STATE VISIT BY TONGA'S KING TAUFU'AHAU TUPOU IV, WHICH APPEARED DESIGNED TO HELP BRIGHTEN THE ROC'S FADING DIPLOMATIC IMAGE DURING THE ANNUAL CHINESE PILGRIMAGES TO TAIWAN. KING TUPOU'S TRIP WAS THE FIRST STATE VISIT TO THE ROC IN APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS.

4. OTHER NOTEWORTHY DELEGATIONS INCLUDED LESOTHO'S QUEEN SEEISO, SAUDI PRINCE AZIZ, SWAZILAND'S PRINCE DLAMINI, SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER S. J. M. STEYN, FORMER FRENCH PREMIER PINAY, OMAN COMMERCE MINISTER ZUBAIR, URUGUAYAN DEFENSE MINISTER RAVENNA, ROK EDUCATION MINISTER DUK ACCOMPANIED BY UNESCO SECRETARY GENERAL KIM KYU TAIK, BRITISH AND JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND A VATICAN DELEGATION. MISSISSIPPI'S GOVERNOR FINCH AND THE MAYORS OF LOS ANGELES, KNOXVILLE AND PLAINS ALSO SHARED POPULAR PRESS COVERAGE.

5. COMMENT: THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION WAS PRIMARILY A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE ON THE USUAL THEMES WITH NO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EVENTS OF NOTE.

SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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